

Chapter 2 Comments on Draft EIS and Responses

2.1 Introduction

The Draft EIS for the Wallula Power Project and Wallula-McNary Transmission Line Project was issued on February 22, 2002. The comment period for the Draft EIS ended on April 11, 2002. Public comment meetings were held on March 13, 2002, in Burbank, Washington, and on March 14, 2002, in McNary, Oregon.

During the comment period, EFSEC and BPA received comments from agencies, citizens, and interest groups. Comments were submitted in letters, orally at the public comment meetings, and via email (together these are called “comment submissions” in this Final EIS). A list of those who commented on the Draft EIS is provided in Table 2-1.

2.2 Organization of this Section

This section contains the comment submissions and corresponding responses to the comments. Each comment submission—whether a letter, meeting transcript, or email—has been assigned a number (see list of comment submissions in Table 2-1). Within each comment submission, comments on specific issues have been designated using a line and a number in the margin. In most cases, a single comment submission contains numerous comments addressing a variety of topics. For example, Comment Submission 1 (public meeting notes submitted via email) contains two comments numbered 1-1 and 1-2.

Following each comment submission are the corresponding responses written by the EIS team. The responses are numbered to match the numbering shown on the comment submissions.

As described in WAC 197-11-560, possible options for responding to comments on a Draft EIS include modifying the alternatives or developing new alternatives, improving or modifying the analysis, making factual corrections, or explaining why the comments do not warrant further agency response. In this regard, for each numbered comment we have provided additional information or elaboration on a topic previously discussed in the Draft EIS; noted how the EIS text has been revised to incorporate new information or factual corrections; referred the reader, when appropriate, to another comment response; explained why the comment does not warrant further response; or simply thanked the commentor when the commentor was stating an opinion.

Table 2-1. List of Draft EIS Commentors and Assigned Comment Submission Numbers

Commentor	Assigned Comment Submission Number
Dave Baker, Umatilla, OR	1
Stuart F. Bonney and Kenneth D. Peterson, Hermiston, OR	2
Various Commentors at March 14, 2002 Public Meeting	3
Various Commentors at Public Meetings	4
Various Commentors at March 13, 2002 Public Meeting	5
Various Commentors at March 14, 2002 Public Meeting	6
Ted Koss, DOE Office of Environmental Policy and Guidance	7
Fred Walasavage, BPA	8
Randy Buchanan, Burbank, WA	9
Robert J. Carson, Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA	10
Don Oliver, State of Washington Department of Health	11
Leslie Hickey, Walla Walla, WA	12
Troy A. Suing, P.E., Regional Planning Engineer	13
Richard B. German, Power Planning Consultant, Walla Walla County Regional Planning	14
REBOUND Comments on DEIS	15
Lisa A. Freedman, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service	16
Douglas I. Jayne, Washington Department of Ecology Eastern Regional Office	17
Scott A. Noll, Wallula Generation LLC	18
Michael Lufkin, Ronald LaVigne, Michael Dunning, Washington State Counsel for the Environment	19
Paul Shampine, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District	20
Rebecca J. Inman, Washington Department of Ecology	21
Curt Leigh, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	22
Christopher Howard, Blue Mountain Audubon Society	23
Karen and Bud Yager, Waitsburg, WA	24
Preston A. Sleeper, U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance	25
Flip Chart Comments From Public Hearing at Burbank, WA	26
Judith Leckrone Lee, Geographic Implementation Unit, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10	27
Mike Healy, Brier, WA	28
Preston A. Sleeper, U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance	29

2.3 References Cited in the Responses to Comments

One document that the EIS team used as an information source in responding to the comments was an attachment provided by the Washington State Counsel for the Environment with their comment submission (number 19). The attachment was a 60-page report entitled *Convergence: Natural Gas and Electricity in Washington—A Survey of the Pacific Northwest Natural Gas Industry on the Eve of a New Era in Electric Generation*, published by the Washington State Office of Trade & Economic Development in May 2001. To conserve resources, the report has not been reprinted in this Final EIS; those interested in obtaining a copy can call (360) 956-2096, or download it from the internet at <http://www.energy.cted.wa.gov/Papers/Convergence.htm>.

The Settlement Agreements reached between the applicant and various agencies and organizations that were granted intervenor status before EFSEC were also used as sources of updated information, especially in regard to mitigation. The Settlement Agreements are listed in Chapter 4, References, and are available for review from EFSEC.

Other references used in preparing this Final EIS are cited in the responses to comments and listed in Chapter 4.

2.4 Index to Wallula Draft EIS Comments by Topic

Table 2-2 provides a cross reference index showing which comments on the Draft EIS (and which corresponding responses in this Final EIS) address various topics of interest. The numbers in the right-hand column correspond to the individually numbered comments shown in the margin of each comment submission (letter, hearing transcript, or email).

Table 2-2. Index to Wallula Draft EIS Comments by Topic

Topic	Comments on Draft EIS that Address this Topic
Access to project site	13-1, 18-1, 18-2
Air quality	
Agricultural and industrial emissions	15-6, 15-7, 15-8, 15-9, 15-21
Ammonia	15-10, 16-10, 19-16
Crops (effects on)	5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-9, 5-10, 9-2, 9-3, 9-4, 9-6, 9-7, 19-19
Emission modeling	18-5, 18-6, 23-3, 23-18
General	10-8, 10-10, 12-2, 16-17
Greenhouse gas	10-6, 19-5, 19-6, 19-20, 19-21, 19-22, 19-23, 19-36, 19-37, 19-38, 23-1, 23-5, 23-6, 24-4
Particulates, dust	10-1, 10-2, 10-3, 15-1, 15-5, 15-12, 15-13, 15-14, 15-15, 15-16, 15-18, 15-20, 15-22, 16-1, 16-4, 16-11, 17-6, 19-3, 19-12, 19-18, 23-2, 23-9, 24-1, 25-12
Plumes, vapor, fog, temperature inversions	9-1, 10-5, 12-1, 12-3, 16-9, 24-3
Regulations, permitting	7-1, 15-17, 16-7, 17-5, 19-7, 19-14, 19-15, 19-17, 19-24, 27-29, 27-30, 27-37
Sulfur, nitrogen, acid deposition	16-5, 16-15, 29-5
Toxic or hazardous pollutants	10-4, 15-11, 18-4, 19-13, 23-7, 24-2
Visibility, regional haze, effects on scenic areas	16-2, 16-3, 16-6, 16-8, 16-12, 16-13, 16-14, 16-16, 16-19, 16-21, 23-4, 23-8, 27-36, 27-38, 29-1, 29-2, 29-3, 29-4, 29-6, 29-7
Alternatives	19-10, 19-11, 23-12, 25-8, 27-9, 27-10, 27-11, 27-12, 28-1, 28-2, 28-3, 28-4
Backup systems	19-2
Construction schedule	18-3
Cultural resources	16-18
Cumulative impacts (general) <i>Note: Cumulative impacts related to specific topics are listed under those topics (e.g., greenhouse gas)</i>	11-1, 16-20, 19-35, 25-35, 27-31, 27-32, 27-33, 27-34, 27-35, 28-8
Easements	2-1, 2-2, 2-4, 2-5, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9, 4-4, 6-1, 6-2
FERC	27-1, 27-2
Fisheries	22-7

Topic	Comments on Draft EIS that Address this Topic
Labor	4-3
Local costs and revenues	5-5, 10-9, 14-1
Location of project	9-9
McNary National Wildlife Refuge	20-1, 23-10, 25-2, 25-9, 25-11
Mitigation (general) <i>Note: Mitigation related to specific topics is listed under those topics (e.g., wildlife)</i>	27-14, 27-27, 27-40
Natural gas supply	19-34, 19-40, 19-41, 19-42, 28-7
Noise	5-8, 18-8, 27-24
Permits and approvals (general) <i>Note: Permits and approvals related to specific topics are listed under those topics (e.g., air)</i>	23-13, 25-10
Purpose and need	19-1, 19-8, 23-11, 24-5, 27-3, 27-4, 27-5, 27-6, 27-7, 27-8
Recreation, hunting, fishing	1-1, 4-1, 20-2
Recycling	21-1
Renewable energy sources	10-11, 19-9, 19-39, 24-6, 28-5, 28-6
Safety	2-6, 27-26
Transportation	27-25
Transmission line	
Burying lines	26-2, 26-3
Need for more detail	27-13, 27-23, 27-28
Vegetation	17-4, 23-17, 25-6, 25-18, 25-28, 25-29, 27-21
Visual resources	25-25
Waste disposal, hazardous waste	8-1, 17-9, 21-2, 21-3
Water	
Cumulative effects	27-39
Stormwater	17-2, 18-7, 27-15
Wastewater	17-1, 25-7
Water conservation	19-31
Water quality	17-8, 27-16, 27-17, 27-19
Water rights	9-8, 15-2, 17-3, 19-4, 19-25, 19-26, 19-27, 19-28, 19-29, 19-30, 19-32, 25-13
Wells	6-4, 9-5, 15-3, 15-4, 15-19, 27-18
Weeds	27-20, 27-42
Wetlands	6-3, 19-33, 22-2, 25-14
Wildlife	
Bird and bat collisions	20-3, 23-16, 25-20, 25-21, 25-22, 25-23, 25-24, 26-1
Birds	25-16, 25-19
Cumulative impacts	25-26, 25-27
Disturbance of wildlife	1-2, 23-14, 25-17
Endangered Species Act process	25-3, 25-4
Mitigation	20-4, 22-1, 22-3, 22-6, 22-8, 22-9, 25-15, 25-30, 25-31, 25-32, 25-33
Noise effects on wildlife	27-41
Significance of impacts	25-1
Special-status species	22-4, 22-5, 23-15, 27-22
Surveys	25-34

2.5 Comment Submissions and Responses to Comments

The rest of this chapter presents the comment submissions on the Draft EIS and responses to the comments. Each comment submission appears first, followed by corresponding responses.